



扶輪基金保管委員會主委文告

## 和平是我們可以每天做的選擇

1914 年年底，歐洲被數百英里的壕溝所分隔。一邊的英國及法國軍隊與另一邊的德國軍隊近在咫尺。教宗呼籲要在聖誕節停火，可是砲聲依舊隆隆。

然後在聖誕夜，英國防線後的士兵聽到一個意外的聲音——不是砲火，而是歌聲。接著他們聽到有人大叫說：「英國士兵，聖誕快樂！」接著是：「英國士兵，出來和我們一起！」

雙方小心翼翼地跨過護牆，進入壕溝之間的無人土地。不久，這些士兵明白，這是真的停火。他們化敵為友，歡唱聖誕頌歌，交換紀念品及威士忌，甚至還踢了一場足球友誼賽。

停火只持續兩天，之後士兵便回到他們的壕溝，持續浴血 4 個年頭。可是這個聖誕節停戰的故事提醒我們和平是可能的，如果我們選擇接受。如果和平可以持續幾天，那它不能持續好幾個月甚至幾年嗎？而我們在一開始要如何避免衝突？

美國人權領袖金恩博士 Martin Luther King Jr. 在他 1964 年諾貝爾和平獎的得獎致詞中說：「我們不只是一要專注在戰爭的負面排斥，還要著重和平的正面肯定。」

有了積極和平 (Positive Peace)，我們社會的架構、政策、及日常的態度及行為都可以促進各層次的正義，維持和平的共存。這就是我們今年

在明尼亞波利到巴黎的街頭抗議中聽到的正義及和平呼籲的解答。

我們世界各地扶輪和平中心所研究的積極和平並不只是扶輪和平獎學金學生的學術理念而已。透過扶輪與全球智庫「經濟及和平研究所」(Institute for Economics and Peace) 的結盟，「扶輪積極和平學院」(Rotary Positive Peace Academy) 免費訓練每位扶輪社員如何在我們基層所推行的每項計畫中——包括基金會獎助金——促進積極的和平。

積極和平在扶輪基金會的各個層次都獲得呼應。我們的識字計畫幫助兒童獲得識字的平等管道，讓某個議題對立的雙方都更能瞭解彼此。透過我們提供清潔飲水的基金會獎助金，社區獲得穩定，同時讓更多兒童可以繼續就學，不必連綿走好幾小時去取水。

我們所擔任促進積極和平的民間社會領袖這個角色，會持續擴展，不僅是透過結盟關係及更多獎助金，也要透過我們的真心、智力，及雙手，奉獻自我來讓世界變得更美好。

雷文壯 K.R. RAVINDRAN

基金會保管委員會主委



TRUSTEE CHAIR'S MESSAGE

## Peace is a choice we can make every day

In late 1914, Europe was divided by hundreds of miles of trenches. British and French forces on one side were within shouting distance of German troops on the other. The pope made a plea for a Christmas truce, but the shooting continued.

Then, on Christmas Eve, soldiers from behind British lines heard an unexpected sound— not gunfire, but singing. Next, they heard a single voice shout out, “English soldier, merry Christmas!” followed by “English soldier, come out to join us!”

Both sides cautiously emerged over the parapet into the no man's land between the trenches. Before long, the soldiers realized that it was a real truce. They fraternized, singing Christmas carols, exchanging souvenirs and whiskey, and even taking up a friendly soccer match.

The cease-fire continued only two days before the troops returned to their trenches, resuming bloodshed for nearly four long years. But the story of the Christmas truce reminds us that peace is possible, if we choose to accept it. If peace can last a few days, could it not also last months or years? And how do we prevent conflict in the first place?

In his Nobel Peace Prize lecture in 1964, American civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. said, “We must concentrate not merely on the negative expulsion of war, but on the positive affirmation of peace.”

With Positive Peace, our society's structures, policies, and everyday attitudes and actions promote justice at all levels, sustaining a peaceful coexistence. It's an answer to the calls for justice and peace we have heard on the streets in protests from Minneapolis to Paris this year.

Positive Peace, studied at our Rotary Peace Centers around the world, is not just an academic idea for the Rotary Peace Fellows. Through Rotary's partnership with the Institute for Economics and Peace, the Rotary Positive Peace Academy offers free training to every Rotary member on how to wage Positive Peace in every project we do at the grassroots level, including Foundation grants.

Positive Peace resonates at all levels of The Rotary Foundation. Our literacy projects help children gain equal access to literacy, so opposing sides on an issue can understand each other better. Through our Foundation grants that provide clean water, communities gain stability, as more children stay in school rather than fetching water for hours on end.

Our role as civil society leaders who wage Positive Peace will continue to expand, not only through partnerships and more grants, but also through our hearts, minds, and hands as we offer our gifts to make the world a better place.

**K.R. RAVINDRAN**

Foundation trustee chair

*Illustration by Luke Wilson*